

Fact sheet on the Employ Young Americans Now Act

At a time when the youth unemployment rate is over 17 percent, and the African American youth unemployment rate is over 27 percent, we have got to do everything we can to make sure that young Americans have the jobs they need to pay for a college education and to move up the economic ladder.

The Employ Young Americans Now Act that will be introduced in the Senate by Sen. Sanders will provide \$5.5 billion in immediate funding to employ one million young Americans in summer and year round jobs; and will provide hundreds of thousands of young Americans with the job training and skills they need for the jobs of the future.

Under the Employ Young Americans Now Act, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) would provide \$4 billion in grants to states and local governments to:

- provide summer and year round employment opportunities for low-income youth, with direct links to academic and occupational learning; and
- provide important services such as transportation or child care, necessary to enable young Americans to participate in job opportunities.

Each state that would like to participate in this program would have to submit a plan to DOL that must include:

- strategies and activities to provide summer employment opportunities and year-round employment opportunities for low-income youth, including links to educational activities;
- identifying employment opportunities in emerging or in-demand occupations;
- identifying employment opportunities in the public or nonprofit sector that meet community needs; and
- an estimate of the number of youth expected to be placed in employment opportunities.

Under this legislation, DOL would also award \$1.5 billion in competitive grants to local areas to provide work-based training to low-income youth and disadvantaged young adults.

Through this bill, DOL will award grant applications to local areas that have the ability to:

- implement effective strategies and activities to provide unemployed, low-income youth and disadvantaged young adults with the skills needed for employment;
- provide opportunities for on-the-job training, and registered apprenticeship programs;

- provide connections to immediate work opportunities; paid internships; enrollment in community colleges; or basic education and training for low-income young adults; and
- develop partnerships with employers and employer associations, community colleges, and other postsecondary education institutions; community-based organizations; joint labor-management committees; and work-related intermediaries.

Most of this funding is targeted to areas of high youth unemployment and poverty. There is a small state minimum to ensure that every state in this country is able to create jobs and provide job training opportunities to young Americans.

The legislation was endorsed by the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, UAW, the United Steelworkers of America, Campaign for America's Future, and the National Employment Law Project.